



Our Ref. No.: 004456.P001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)
Richard A. Halavais, Tony C. Chung) Examiner: Not Assigned
Serial No.: 09/295,577) Art Group: 2761
Filed: April 22, 1999)
For: INDIVIDUAL SEAT SELECTION)
TICKETING AND)
RESERVATION SYSTEM)

)

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d)

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby petition the Group Director to grant the above-identified application special status under the Special Examining Procedure for certain new applications (MPEP Sec. 708.02, item VIII). The above-identified new application has not received any examination by the Examiner.

Applicants submit herewith a statement that a pre-examination search has been made. The statement lists the field of search by class and subclass. Applicants have previously submitted copies of the references noted in the search. Applicants further submit herewith a detailed discussion of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims of the above-identified application. The discussion points out with particularity how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references.

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Please charge the petition filing fee of \$130.00 to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If there are any additional charges, please also apply them to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Dated: 3/24, 2000

Thomas Coester
Thomas M. Coester
Reg. No. 39,637

Enclosure

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231-9998 on: March 24, 2000.

Nadya Gordon 3/24/00
Nadya Gordon Date



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STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Statement is submitted in support of Applicants' Petition To Make Special under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d), filed concurrently herewith.

Applicants state that a search was directed to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/295,577, entitled "Individual Seat Selection Ticketing and Reservation System", filed April 22, 1999.

During the course of the search the following patents were noted:

5,797,126	5,769,269	5,408,417
5,990,927	5,930,769	5,855,006
5,806,046	5,615,342	5,581,461

The search covered the following areas:

Class 705/(Data Processing: Financial, Business Practice, Management, or Cost/Price Determination) was manually searched in subclasses 5, 6 and 27.

Examiner Steven Tkacs in Art Unit 2761 was consulted in regard to the field of search. This consultation was performed by Tom Hamill, Registered Patent Agent, Reg. No. 38,481, acting on behalf of Applicants.

Applicants further submit herewith amendments to the claims in order to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Attached hereto is a detailed discussion of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed in the claims (as amended) of the above-identified application. The discussion points out with particularity how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references.

If there are any additional charges, please apply them to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Dated: 5/24, 2000

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For: INDIVIDUAL SEAT SELECTION TICKETING)
AND RESERVATION SYSTEM)

DISCUSSION OF REFERENCES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicants herein distinguish the present invention as claimed from the following references being most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims of the above-identified Application.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention includes a system and method to permit a client at an arbitrary unaffiliated node to purchase for example tickets for a venue, such tickets being for specific seats selected by the user through a centralized server node. The claimed invention does not require dedicated hardware or software on the client side. Accordingly, it provides much greater potential client access than traditional kiosk systems which require dedicated hardware and/or software on both the client and server side.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentable over the prior art including the following patents. The patents discussed below are those deemed most relevant to the present invention.

Helbling et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,797,126

Helbling discloses a theater ticket concierge system based on a plurality of individual kiosks which may be in wireless communication with a central station. However, each individual kiosk necessarily involves dedicated hardware and requires a user to trek to the kiosk in order to conduct transactions. Conversely, the client nodes in Applicants' claims are unaffiliated with the server nodes. Being unaffiliated, the client node has neither dedicated hardware nor dedicated software associated with the server. Thus, Applicants' claimed invention provides for a much broader distribution network than contemplated by Helbling and is neither disclosed nor rendered obvious by the teachings of Helbling.

Wilder, U.S. Patent No. 5,408,417

Wilder discloses a automated ticket sales and dispensing system. The Wilder system again relies on dedicated hardware and software in a kiosk environment to perform its ticket sales and dispensing function. Thus, Wilder suffers the same deficiencies as discussed in connection with Helbling above, and it also fails to render the claimed invention obvious.

Peters, U.S. Patent No. 5,769,269

Peters teaches another automated vending system which again relies on dedicated hardware and software on the client's side to conduct transactions. Again, this kiosk system fails to provide the convenience or the broad distribution base made possible by Applicants' claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the pending claims are patentable over the above-identified references. Allowance of the claims is requested at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 3/24/00

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